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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West Virginia Record Allegations Against Charleston Ministers Untrue

A recent article in the online version of the "West Virginia Record" has proven to be false. The story appears to accuse a group of Charleston ministers of misusing a monetary award received from the office of Attorney General Darrell McGraw.

The Charleston Black Ministerial Alliance received a \$10,000 award from McGraw's office on Tuesday August 7, 2007. The purpose of the award was to help support the Jabez Project, a program run by the Alliance designed to educate young people about the dangers of drug abuse.

On Wednesday August 8, 2007 the Charleston Gazette ran an advertisement opposing the adoption of table games in Kanawha County which was signed by the Reverend Lloyd Allan Hill. Reverend Hill is pastor of Liberty Missionary Baptist Church and President of the Alliance.

The Record's story seemingly implies that the \$10,000 award was misused to purchase the ad.

Inquiry reveals that the Alliance and other organizations did pool funds to purchase the anti-gambling ad, but that other than Reverend Hill's involvement as President of the Alliance, the anti-drug abuse award and the anti-gambling ad are unrelated.

The funds awarded to the Alliance for the Jabez Project are part of settlement moneys received by Attorney General McGraw from a lawsuit brought against Perdue Pharma, manufacturer of the narcotic drug, OxyContin, for its techniques in marketing the drug.

Entities receiving awards from the Perdue Pharma settlement are required to provide an accounting of how the funds are used. Funds determined to be misspent are subject to recoupment and redistribution per the terms of the settlement agreement.

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